

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS

JOSEPH HOWE AND HIS TIMES.

And Incidental References to Some of His Prominent Public Contemporaries.

By "Historicus," Fredericton, N. B.

NO. 18.

The Canadian Rebellion—Its Cause and Effect.

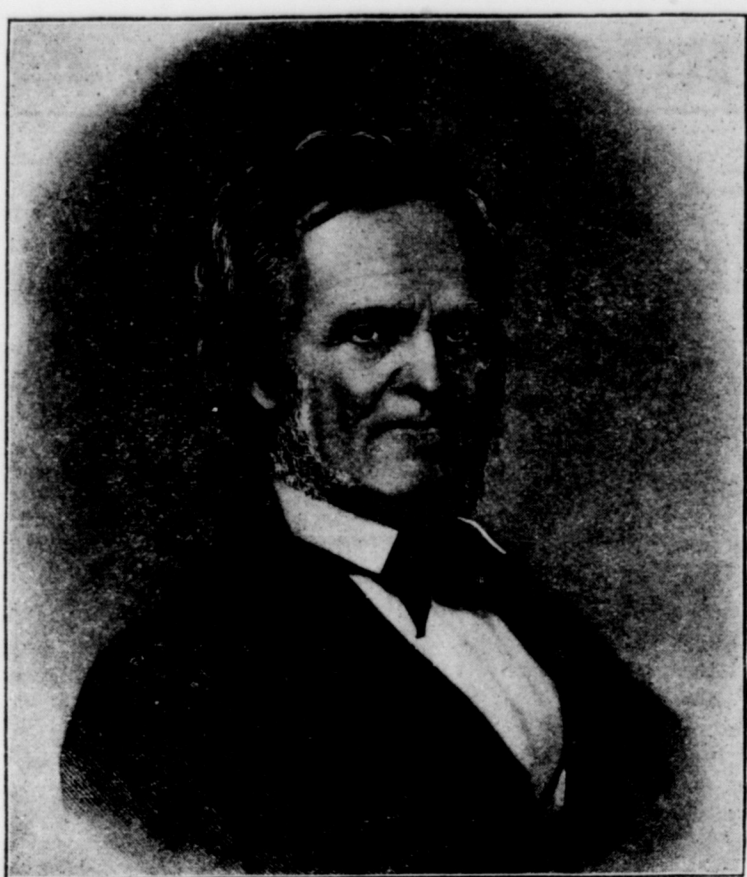
In 1837 while the reform agitation was in its full plenitude and the most bitter political feeling everywhere prevailing between the opposing parties throughout the province, the excitement in Canada, growing out of the same causes—viz., the Reformers against the Compact—was now about assuming a very aggressive shape—in short nothing less than the taking up of arms by the agitators for the redress of their grievances and ultimate independence. The leader of the Reform Party was Wm. Lyon Mackenzie, a man of good talents, force of character and influence; but unlike the Nova Scotia leader, he lacked judgment and prudence, hence his failure at the critical moment and finally was compelled to flee the Province, when the patriotic army which he had organized and taken into the field was overthrown and routed by the loyalists. It must not, however, be supposed that the malcontents of 1837 were composed of the rag-tags of Canada, more desperadoes, rough characters full of adventure, whose only aim was to destroy and pillage. Nothing of the kind. Some of the best blood of the country were either participants or sympathizers; but in saying this a large proportion of the latter, however, bitter they were against the Tories and their oppressive practices of government, were opposed to overt acts of treason—they rather counselled a continuation of agitation, and that a day must come when their wrongs would be righted through Constitutional means. Among this highly respectable class were Mr. Hincks (afterwards Sir Francis), Mr. Bidwell, Mr. Baldwin, Dr. Nelson, and many other such dignified but moderate men.

In Lower Canada the excitement was even greater than in the upper Province. Louis J. Papineau was the leader of the Reformers, a man of great eloquence and talents, and of most commanding presence, and he was assisted by others of the highest respectability among the habitants. Public meetings were called in all the towns of both Provinces, at which the boldest and most defiant language was used by the respective speakers—not against the British Constitution or Government, but against the "family compact," "the plutocracy." All they asked was a reform of the existing abuses—and as an alternative revolutionary action and independence. It was the same in Nova Scotia, where the Governor and Council were banded together, and held in contempt as it were the remonstrances of the people's representatives. But the Nova Scotians would not go into rebellion.

This agitation in Canada as in the lower Provinces had been going on for years, without producing the smallest effect upon the Government; and when in 1836 Sir Francis Bond Head was appointed Governor, it intensified the excitement, as he was quite unfit for the position, brought up in the most straight laced Tory School in England, had been one of the Poor Law Commissioners, his dealings hitherto mostly with paupers, so that his feelings and disposition were attuned to very common place observations at home. This then was the man sent out to govern a highly spirited intelligent people; and he proved himself in the end to be no better than was prophesied of him at the beginning. Then the Tories, as in Nova Scotia, had ready access to the back stairs of the Colonial Office, and their side of the story was always listened to, whatever it was, and accepted as gospel truth—while the Liberals had no other way of making themselves heard than upon the floors of the House of Assembly, and that availed them nothing. In the elections in Canada in 1836, this Sir Francis Bond Head threw himself into the contest with all the ardour of a candidate, and this for the purpose of defeating the Liberals; and thus (as Mr. Charles Lindsey observed) carried despair into many a breast where hope had till then continued to abide. The coercion of Lower Canada by the Imperial and Local Governments caused the most excited persons in both Provinces to look to a revolution as the only means of relief. Mr. Mackenzie was among those who came to this conclusion. But he only shared with a large class of the population a sentiment which was the inevitable outcome of the existing state of things, and which affected masses of men, at the same moment, with a common and irresistible impulse. The Toronto "Declaration" made on the 31st of July previous was the first spark to kindle the flame of insurrection. It committed all who accepted it to share the fortunes of Lower Canada. The machinery of organization and agitation, which was created at the same time, became the instrument of revolt.

At one of the public meetings it was complained that "a bribed and pensioned band of official hirelings and expectants falsely assuming the character of the representatives of the people of Upper Canada, corrupted by offices, wealth and honors bestowed upon their influential members by Sir F. B. Head, since they took their seats in the House of Assembly, have refused to

allow a free trial to candidates ready to contest their seats—have refused to order new elections for members who have accepted places of gain under the government—have refused to institute a free and constitutional inquiry into corruptions practiced at the elections through Sir F. B. Head's patent deeds and otherwise; and although they were returned for the constitutional period which the death of the King had brought near to a close, they have violated the most solemn covenant of the British Constitution, by resolving that their pretended powers of legislation shall

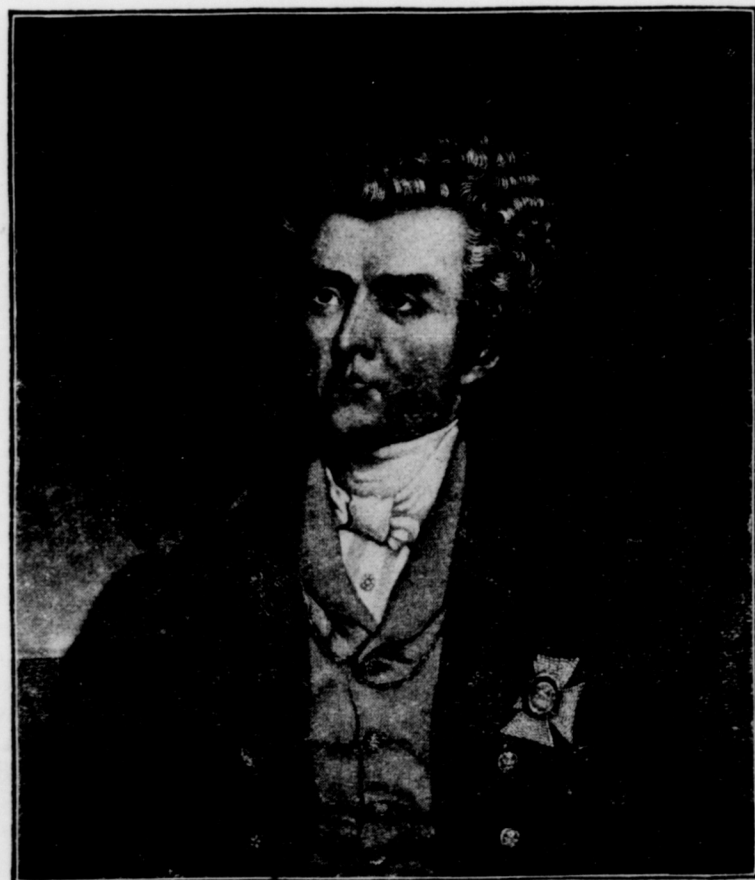


WM. LYON MACKENZIE.

continue over us three years longer than they were appointed to act."

Now with regard to the conduct of the British Government towards the Canadian Reformers, it must be said that the former were kept in perfect ignorance of the nature of the complaints of the latter, through, as just now stated, the secret machinations of the Tories in their access to the ears of the Colonial Secretary. This ignorance was only removed by the outbreak and what followed, as will be shown hereafter. Mr. Hume and others in the House of Commons used strong language against the outrageous system of Colonial Government, and rather defended the outbreak. Then there was a large body of Orangemen in both Canadas, well organized—so that to them was finally due the suppression of the revolt and restoration of peace, and relieving the Compact and the Tory Officials of their fright and securing to them their offices and emoluments—but, for only a time longer.

Although the "rebels" were meeting in public every where, and great preparations being made for an outbreak at an opportune moment; and this going on for weeks in Upper Canada, Sir F. B. Head took no heed of the situation—nor did he make the least preparation for taking the field, but listlessly played with the cat in his chimney corner (figuratively speaking); let what might come it was all one to him, as it appeared by his apathy. There were very few regular troops in Canada at the time, and those were under the command of Colonel Gore (who had married a Halifax lady, and finally settled down in England as a General.) The "patriots" or "rebels" as you chose to call them, had mustered at different points in the Province, and their object was to make a descent upon Toronto and capture it. All told they had probably 2,000 men to operate. But as Mackenzie himself was general Commander, and did not know the first thing about military matters, all his movements were nothing but a series of blunders and disasters. In one skirmish at St. Charles they gained a victory, and that was all. Had they a good General to lead them Toronto might have been taken with ease. Not having a leader and poorly armed and equipped, they advanced, were repulsed and ran. Historically they can only be remembered in the same light as Falstaff's Regiment marching through Coventry. Indeed, I know of no such blunders in history, except they be in the cases of Louis Napoleon in his descent upon Boulogne in 1845, with a handful of men to overthrow the Government of Louis Philippe; or the mad attempt of Aaron Burr, ex-Vice President of the United States, who in 1806, attempted to seduce the Western States from their allegiance to the union, and join with him to revolutionize Mexico, then under Spanish rule, with the intention of having himself created Emperor of Mexico including said Western States. On proceeding down the Mississippi a flotilla of a dozen flat boats with but sixty followers he was



SIR FRANCIS BOND HEAD.

trapped a little below Natchez, his forces scattered and himself, after many hardships caught, and finally tried in Richmond, Virginia, on a charge of high treason, but he escaped conviction through a mere technicality. Burr, though of brilliant talents, was a great villain. Louis Napoleon was imprisoned in the Fortress of Ham, but after a year or two made his escape in the disguise of a carpenter, and afterwards became Emperor of France.

As before remarked Mackenzie, the chief promoter of the rebellion, although a very able, honest and courageous man, lacked discretion and judgment, which this outbreak fully demonstrated—for he should have known that a man untrained to arms was no more fit to lead an army into the field, especially against the Tory forces and all the Orangemen in all the Provinces, numbering many thousands beyond what he could possibly muster—had no more chance of success than hitherto he had of convincing the Compact that they ought to place their offices at the disposal of the people. If there were but few troops in Canada, there were several regiments in Halifax, and Militia aglow in all the Provinces, all of which would have been marched to the scene of action—so that had the "rebels" taken Toronto, they could only have held it for a short time. It was a vast stupid mistake for a civilian to attempt the conquest of Canada, and bring into terms the Tory Compact through force of arms.

The rebellion was crushed at a single blow, although a number of lives were lost in the respective skirmishes. Mackenzie and Dr. Koll, another of the active spirits, made their way to the frontier—as did all the other leaders of the revolt—and thus saved their necks but not their reputations in the directing of the "forlorn hope." Mackenzie after being in the United States a short time, obtained a good position in the New York Custom House, but even here the restlessness of his nature overmastered him, which again led him into trouble. He discovered something wrong in the management of the department—perhaps "boodling"—and instead of minding his own business and holding on to his office, he must needs take it upon himself to right matters by giving information, accompanied by remedial proposals. The consequence was, especially being a foreigner, he lost his place. When the amnesty was proclaimed by the British Government a few years afterwards, Mackenzie returned to Canada—a broken-down man, health shattered and a sport for Tory gibes and squibs, until the day of his death, not long after.

The publication of the amnesty brought back all who were concerned in the rebellion, with some exceptions; and in not many years after some of the leaders, for whose heads large sums of money had been offered, were elevated to high positions in the State, and even honored by the Sovereign with titles, it not coronets. All this came about after the smoke of battle had cleared away and the British Government could clearly discern the real condition of affairs, and the cause of the differences between the parties, brought about by Lord Durham, in his able "Report," as we shall see hereafter.

Order having thus been brought out of chaos, so far as the suppression of the rebellion was concerned, and Radicals and Tories agreed together to live at peace, and yet holding to their respective principles, it was after all only the calm that presaged another storm; for when the Legislature subsequently met in Quebec, a Bill was passed for the indemnification of those loyal subjects who had lost their property through the rebellion, which loss should be made up by the Province; but of course as the Liberals were not recognized as loyal subjects, no matter what the innocent ones lost, they should not be included. But at length at a subsequent meeting of the Legis-

bread was buttered—then as now—where their effusive loyalty in words began and ended.

Still smarting under their disappointments, the next we hear of them (1847) is getting up an *Annexation Manifesto*—which they call upon all good Canadians to come forward and sign—peaceful separation from the mother country and then join the United States. Although this might be called an ebullition of the moment, the mere pettishness of children, such persons ought to remember the occasion, and be a little more sparing of their breath when at the present day they, even some who signed that document, denounce persons as loyal as themselves, simply because they seek to bring about measures which they conceive, mistakenly or not, to be for the benefit, and not dismemberment, of their native country.

The next article will bring in Lord Durham and Mr. Paulett Thompson (Lord Sydenham), and show the valuable services which they rendered to the Liberal cause—also a portrait of Lord Durham.

Ancient Wax Tablets.

Wooden tablets, covered with wax, was anciently used to write upon, the outer sides being of wood, only the inner sides being covered with wax. The two pieces were fastened at the back with wire as hinges, and could be opened and shut like our books. Two ancient waxen tablets of this kind, in an excellent state of preservation, were found in gold-mines in and near the village of Abrudbanya, in Transylvania. These tablets consist of two tablets each. One is of fir wood, the other of beech wood each about the size of a small octavo. The outer parts are of plain wood; the inner are covered with wax, now almost grown black, and have margins. The middle tablet, also with raised margin, is covered with wax on both sides. On the tablets are some Greek letters followed by certain unknown characters. The other tablet contains writing in Latin, which refers to some business with a *Collegium* ("body" or "corporation"). It is written from right to left, the writing being on the fourth page and ending at the bottom of the third.

Something About Coffee.

Coffee, of which 850,000 tons are consumed annually over the world, is grown on both sides on the Red Sea, in the East Indies (Mysore, Ceylon, and Java), the West Indies, Central America, and Brazil. The last country produces by far the largest quantity—considerably more than one-half the whole amount—and the worst quality. The parent stock came originally from Arabia. At the end of the seventeenth century a single plant, which had been reared from seed obtained from Mocha, was sent to the Botanical Gardens at Amsterdam, and twenty years afterwards, in 1718, its progeny was remitted to the Dutch islands for cultivation. From this sprang the whole modern coffee trade. The story was, curiously enough, repeated about ten years ago, in the case of a single plant which reached South-East Africa from Kew, and is now the parent of extensive plantations.

THINGS OF VALUE.

Give attention and you will get knowledge.

For Cholera, Fellows' Speedy Relief stands ahead of all other Preparations.

A sinister glance betokens an evil purpose.

Fellows' Dyspepsia Bitters is not a new remedy. It has been known in this country over fifty years.

Rebuff is a wet blanket that dampens ardor.

There's a Bridge of Sighs at Venice. At Montreal a Bridge of Size.

But Putner's Emulsion is the Bridge of Health. Which all sick men should prize.

A kindly feeling cannot fail to touch the heart.

As soon as you discover any falling of the hair or grayness always use Hall's Hair Renewer to tone up the secretions and prevent baldness or grayness.

He who would exert influence must exercise judgment.

It is an advantage to obtain anything in the labor saving line, but when the result is even superior to the old plan, as in Soup making with the Kerr Soup Vegetables the gain is great.

Never let your curiosity get the better of your discretion.

Are you troubled with weak Kidneys, Costiveness, Dyspepsia, Rheumatism, Skin troubles? Try nature's cure either in shape of Wilmot Spa Ginger Ale, Lemonade or Natural water.

Only the quickening of conscience can hasten repentance.

"I eat more Soup now than ever before" said a friend to us one day. "How is that?" "Because Kerr Evaporated Vegetables makes Soup taste better than that I ever thought it could."

A show of opposition is very apt to be an exhibition of folly.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills contain in condensed form the elements for building up the blood and nerve system. When broken down from overwork, mental worry, abuse or excess, you will find them a never-failing cure. Sold by dealers, or sent on receipt of price—50 cents a box, 6 boxes, \$2.50—by addressing The Dr. Williams Med. Co., Brockville, Take no substitute.

In the flutter of excitement the flight of time is unheeded.

What REV. J. W. MCGREGOR writes K. D. C. Co.,—DEAR SIR:—You are welcome to make use of any words I have written to you in reference to K. D. C. The name of the remedies I have tried for dyspepsia during the past 15 years is legion, none helped me like K. D. C. There is a host of remedies before the public here for dyspepsia. But I feel convinced that if the public were only acquainted with K. D. C. it would out-strip them all in favor.

Yours truly, Stoneham, Mass. J. W. MCGREGOR.

Many shall court distinction for whom the wedding day will never be set.

First be Sure you are Right then go Ahead.

If you take cold and lose your health you cannot properly attend to your business. If you do not attend to your business you will not succeed in it.

If you wear Righy Waterproof Garments you reduce your chances of taking cold, with its attendant disastrous results, to a minimum. Ponder this over and form your conclusions, then act.

SURPRISE

Soap Saves

the worker. It takes only half the time and work to do the wash, without boiling or scalding the clothes.

the clothes are not rubbed to pieces; there's no hard rubbing—but the dirt drops out and they're left snowy white.

the hands after the wash are white and smooth—not chapped.

READ the directions on the wrapper.



SAVING AT THE SPIGOT

THERE is a lesson in this illustration for the house-keeper who is thinking of "doing up" her own curtains. Lace has to be handled carefully, and only experience can teach you how to do it. Ungar has had the experience; and what is more, he makes a business of it. When you take your lace curtains out of the trunk where they have been all winter, send them to Ungar's and have them redressed and made to look like new.

BE SURE and send your Parcels to UNGAR'S Steam Laundry and Dye Works, St. John, (Waterloo street); Telephone 58. Or Halifax: 62 and 64 Granville street. It'll be done right, it done at

UNCAR'S.

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THE GERMAN ELECTRIC BELT AND APPLIANCES WILL CURE

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RHEUMATISM. LAME BACK. KIDNEY DISEASES. DYSPEPSIA. NERVOUSNESS. LUMBAGO, &c.

We claim that our Belt is far superior to any other Electric Appliance Manufactured.

ARE THEY ELECTRIC?

So many bogus Appliances have been sold claiming to be Electric that produce no action whatever, that many persons have come to the conclusion that no Appliance can be made in this form that will generate a current. To settle this matter we will guarantee that we will forfeit \$500.00, Five Hundred Dollars, if a test by means of a galvanometer does not show that The German Electric Belt generates a current. Write for full information enclosing six cents for postage to

Canadian Branch German Electric Belt Agency, Parkdale, Ont.

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A few more Bargains in Winter Goods before the arrival of our Spring Stock. We are selling the remainder of our stock of **Overcoats** and **Reefers** twenty-five per cent. cheaper than our regular winter prices, rather than carry them over to next season.

Men's and Boys' suits at prices to suit the times. Custom work got up in first-class style at a low figure.

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